

#### **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

An improved respiratory suction apparatus catheter includes a manifold for attachment to the distal hub of an endotracheal tube to form a respiration circuit, a catheter tube which is displaceable through the manifold and into the endotracheal tube to suction secretions from the tube and lungs, and a valve mechanism disposed adjacent the respiration circuit to minimize the draw of air from the respiration circuit of a patient while the catheter tube is being cleaned.

5 In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the catheter tube is cleaned more thoroughly than in the prior art while simultaneously drawing little or no air from the patient's respiration circuit.

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